

Serial No.: 09/502,984
Filed: February 11, 2000

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PTO-1449 were cited in the International Search Report dated August 7, 2000 for a counterpart PCT application. As such, the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement is within three months of the date of that International Search Report and, therefore, need not be accompanied by the fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). A copy of the International Search Report for the counterpart PCT application is enclosed herewith.

With respect to patent applications, the applicants point out their duty under M.P.E.P. §2001.06(b) to disclose relevant patent applications of which they are aware. To this end, the applicants draw the Examiner's attention to the following patent applications:

United States Serial No. 09/058,459, filed April 10, 1998; U.S.S.N. 09/127,926, filed July 31, 1998; and lastly U.S.S.N.s 09/418,719, and 09/419,351 both filed October 15, 1999.

None of the foregoing references are believed to disclose the invention as claimed. Nothing herein shall constitute an admission concerning the contents of any of the cited references, nor shall the inclusion of a reference herein be considered an admission that the reference constitutes prior art against the invention claimed in the above-identified application. Submission of the present document shall not be construed as an admission that a search has been made or that better art does not exist.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Our Order No. A-68126-1/RFT/RMS/RMK).


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An additional copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 10/11/00


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